AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-57   (Cancelled)

58.   (Previously Presented) In a client system comprising a display for showing video programs received from one or more video sources and chat communication from one or more chat rooms, a method of the client system displaying a particular video program and chat communication corresponding to the particular video program, the method comprising:

receiving a video program from a video source;

receiving chat communication from a chat room that is associated with the video program;

storing a plurality of distinct user interface templates, each of the plurality of distinct user interface templates defining a video region, for displaying the video program, and a chat region, for displaying chat communication, that differ from one user interface template to another;

automatically, and without user intervention, selecting one of the plurality of distinct user interface templates for use in customizing display of the video program and the chat communication based on at least one of (i) an episode of a television series included in the video program, (ii) a television series corresponding to the video program, (iii) a television network affiliate providing the video program, or (iv) a network providing the video program; and

displaying the video program and the chat communication in accordance with the selected user interface template and thereby creating a customized user interface for the video program and chat communication.

59.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the host and chat servers are the same server.

60.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the video program and the chat link data are received in a signal broadcast from the video source.

61.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, further comprising:

receiving chat link data indicating that the client system may display a user selectable chat link for connecting to the chat room;

displaying the user selectable chat link simultaneously with the video program;

receiving user selection of the chat link;

sending a chat request to a host server;

receiving a chat room identifier from the host server that identifies the chat room; and

connecting to the chat room at a chat server.

62.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the chat region of the selected user interface template is adjacent the video region of the selected user interface template.

63.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the chat region of the selected user interface template overlies the video region of the selected user interface template.

64.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the video program is a first video program, the chat communication is a first chat communication, the chat room is a first chat room, and the selected user interface template is a first user interface template, the method further comprising:

receiving a second video program;

receiving a second chat communication from a second chat room that is associated with the second video program;

automatically, and without user intervention, selecting a second one of the plurality of distinct user interface templates for customizing display of the second video program and second chat communication based on at least one of (i) an episode of a television series included in the second video program, (ii) a television series corresponding to the second video program, (iii) a television network affiliate providing the second video program, or (iv) a network providing the second video program; and

displaying the second video program and the second chat communication in accordance with the second user interface template, wherein the second user interface template differs from the first user interface template.

65.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein an identifying characteristic of the video program is displayed outside of the video region of the display.

66.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies an episode of a television series included in the video program.

67.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies a television series corresponding to the video program.

68.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies a television network affiliate providing the video program.

69.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies a television network providing the video program.

70.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, wherein the identifying characteristic includes a background underlying other displayed data.

71.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the second user interface template is selected because (i) an episode of a television series included in the second video program differs from an episode of a television series includes in the first video program, or (ii) a

television series corresponding to the second video program differs from a television series corresponding to the first video program.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the second user interface template is selected because (i) a television network affiliate providing the second video program differs from a television network affiliate providing the first video program, or (ii) a network providing the second video program differs from the a network providing the first video program.

73. (Previously Presented) For one or more host servers receiving one or more chat requests from one or more client systems that show video programs received from one or more video sources and chat communication from one or more chat servers corresponding to the received video programs, a computer program product comprising one or more computer readable media having computer-executable instructions for implementing a method of a host server controlling a client system's display of a particular video program and chat communication corresponding to the particular video program, the method comprising:

receiving a chat request from a client system, the chat request including a video program identifying characteristic, for a video program, that identifies at least one of (i) an episode of a television series included in the video program, (ii) a television series corresponding to the video program, (iii) a television network affiliate providing the video program, or (iv) a network providing the video program;

storing a plurality of distinct user interface templates, each of the plurality of distinct user interface templates defining a video region, for displaying the video program, and a chat region, for displaying chat communication from a chat server, that differ from one user interface template to another;

automatically, and without user intervention, selecting one of the plurality of distinct user interface templates based on the video program identifying characteristic; and

sending the selected user interface template to the client system for use in customizing display of the video program and the chat communication at the client system in accordance with the selected user interface template.

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74.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 73, wherein the host and chat servers are the same server.

75.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 73, wherein selecting one of the plurality of distinct user interface templates based on the video program identifying characteristic comprises selecting a user interface template for (i) an episode of a television series included in the video program, if one exists, and if not (ii) a television series corresponding to the video program, if one exists, and if not (iii) a television network affiliate providing the video program, if one exists, and otherwise (iv) a network providing the video program.

76.   (Cancelled)

77.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 73, wherein the chat region of the selected user interface template is adjacent the video region of the selected user interface template.

78.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 73, wherein the chat region of the selected user interface template overlies the video region of the selected user interface template.

79.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 73, wherein the identifying characteristic of the video program is displayed outside of the video region of the display.

80.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 79, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies an episode of a television series included in the video program.

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81.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 79, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies a television series corresponding to the video program.

82.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 79, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies a television network affiliate providing the video program.

83.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 79, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies a television network providing the video program.

84.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 79, wherein the identifying characteristic includes a background underlying other displayed data.

85.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 73, wherein the video program is a first video program, the video program identifying characteristic is a first video program identifying characteristic, the chat communication is a first chat communication, the chat room is a first chat room, and the selected user interface template is a first user interface template, the method further comprising:

receiving a second chat request from the client system, the chat request including a second video program identifying characteristic, for a second video program, that identifies at least one of (i) an episode of a television series included in the second video program, (ii) a television series corresponding to the second video program, (iii) a television network affiliate providing the second video program, or (iv) a network providing the second video program;

selecting a second one of the plurality of distinct user interface templates based on the second video program identifying characteristic; and

sending the second user interface template to the client system for use in customizing display of the second video program and the second chat communication at the client system in accordance with the second user interface template.

86.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 85, wherein an episode of a television series included in the second video program differs from an episode of a television series included in the first video program.

87.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 86, wherein a television series corresponding to the second video program differs from a television series corresponding to the first video program.

88.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 87, a television network affiliate providing the second video program differs from a television network affiliate providing the first video program.

89.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 87, wherein a network providing the second video program differs from a network providing the first video program.

90-91. (Cancelled)

92.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 58, wherein the video program has a beginning and an end, and further including an act of displaying a new chat link with the video program, and prior to the end of the video program, the new chat link linking to a new chat room that is associated with a different video program.

93.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 58, wherein the chat room is maintained by the chat server only until the user leaves the chat room, wherein the user is determined to be a last participant to leave the chat room.

94.   (Previously Presented) In one or more host servers receiving one or more chat requests from one or more client systems that show video programs received from one or more video sources and chat communication from one or more chat servers corresponding to the received video programs, a method of a host server controlling a client system's display of a particular video program and chat communication corresponding to the particular video program, the method comprising:

receiving a chat request from a client system, the chat request including a video program identifying characteristic, for a video program, that identifies at least one of (i) an episode of a television series included in the video program, (ii) a television series corresponding to the video program, (iii) a television network affiliate providing the video program, or (iv) a network providing the video program;

storing a plurality of distinct user interface templates, each of the plurality of distinct user interface templates defining a video region, for displaying the video program, and a chat region, for displaying chat communication from a chat server, that differ from one user interface template to another;

automatically, and without user intervention, selecting one of the plurality of distinct user interface templates based on the video program identifying characteristic; and

sending the selected user interface template to the client system for use in customizing display of the video program and the chat communication at the client system in accordance with the selected user interface template.

95.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 94, wherein the host and chat servers are the same server.

96.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 94, wherein the video program is a first video program, the video program identifying characteristic is a first video program identifying characteristic, the chat communication is a first chat communication, the chat room is a first chat room, and the selected user interface template is a first user interface template, the method further comprising:

receiving a second chat request from the client system, the chat request including a second video program identifying characteristic, for a second video program, that identifies at least one of (i) an episode of a television series included in the second video program, (ii) a television series corresponding to the second video program, (iii) a television network affiliate providing the second video program, or (iv) a network providing the second video program;

automatically, and without user intervention, selecting ·a second one of the plurality of distinct user interface templates based on the second video program identifying characteristic; and

sending the second user interface template to the client system for use in customizing display of the second video program and the second chat communication at the client system in accordance with the second user interface template.

97.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 96, wherein an episode of a television series included in the second video program differs from an episode of a television series included in the first video program.

98.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 96, wherein a network providing the second video program differs from a network providing the first video program.

99.   (Previously Presented) For a client system comprising a display for showing video programs received from one or more video sources and chat communication from one or more chat rooms, a computer program product comprising one or more computer readable media having computer-executable instructions for implementing a method of the client system displaying particular video program and chat communication corresponding to the particular video program, the method comprising:

receiving a video program from a video source;

receiving chat communication from a chat room that is associated with the video program;

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storing a plurality of distinct user interface templates, each of the plurality of distinct user interface templates defining a video region, for displaying the video program, and a chat region, for displaying chat communication, that differ from one user interface template to another;

automatically, and without user intervention, selecting one of the plurality of distinct user interface templates for use in customizing display of the video program and the chat communication based on at least one of (i) an episode of a television series included in the video program, (ii) a television series corresponding to the video program, (iii) a television network affiliate providing the video program, or (iv) a network providing the video program; and

displaying the video program and the chat communication in accordance with the selected user interface template and thereby creating a customized user interface for the video program and chat communication.

100.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 99, the method further comprising:

receiving chat link data indicating that the client system may display a user selectable chat link for connecting to the chat room;

displaying the user selectable chat link simultaneously with the video program;

receiving user selection of the chat link;

sending a chat request to a host server;

receiving a chat room identifier from the host server that identifies the chat room; and

connecting to the chat room at a chat server.

101.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 100, wherein the video program and the chat link data are received in a signal broadcast from the video source.

102.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 99, the video program is a first video program, the chat communication is a first chat communication, the chat

room is a first chat room, and the selected user interface template is a first user interface template, the method further comprising:

receiving a second video program;

receiving a second chat communication from a second chat room that is associated with the second video program;

automatically, and without user intervention, selecting a second one of the plurality of distinct user interface templates for customizing display of the second video program and second chat communication based on at least one of (i) an episode of a television series included in the second video program, (ii) a television series corresponding to the second video program, (iii) a television network affiliate providing the second video program, or (iv) a network providing the second video program; and

displaying the second video program and the second chat communication in accordance with the second user interface template, wherein the second user interface template differs from the first user interface template.

103.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 99, wherein the video program has a beginning and an end, and further including an act of displaying a new chat link with the video program, and prior to the end of the video program, the new chat link linking to a new chat room that is associated with a different video program.

104.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 99, wherein the chat room is maintained by the chat server only until the user leaves the chat room, wherein the user is determined to be a last participant to leave the chat room.

105.   (New) In a client system comprising a display for showing video programs received from one or more video sources and chat communication from one or more chat rooms, a method of the client system displaying a particular video program and chat communication corresponding to the particular video program, the method comprising:

receiving a video program from a video source;

creating a chat room that is associated with the video program;

receiving chat communication from the chat room;

storing a plurality of distinct user interface templates, each of the plurality of distinct user interface templates defining a video region, for displaying the video program, and a chat region, for displaying chat communication, that differ from one user interface template to another;

selecting one of the plurality of distinct user interface templates for use in customizing display of the video program and the chat communication based on at least one of (i) an episode of a television series included in the video program, (ii) a television series corresponding to the video program, (iii) a television network affiliate providing the video program, or (iv) a network providing the video program; and

displaying the video program and the chat communication in accordance with the selected user interface template and thereby creating a customized user interface for the video program and chat communication.

106.   (New) In a client system comprising a display for showing video programs received from one or more video sources and chat communication from one or more chat rooms, a method of the client system displaying a particular video program and chat communication corresponding to the particular video program, the method comprising:

receiving a video program from a video source;

receiving chat communication from a chat room that is associated with the video program;

storing a plurality of distinct user interface templates, each of the plurality of distinct user interface templates defining a video region, for displaying the video program, and a chat region, for displaying chat communication, that differ from one user interface template to another;

automatically, and without user intervention at any time, selecting one of the plurality of distinct user interface templates for use in customizing display of the video program and the chat communication based on at least one of (i) an episode of a television series included in the video program, (ii) a television series corresponding to the video program, (iii) a television network affiliate providing the video program, or (iv) a network providing the video program;

displaying the video program and the chat communication in accordance with the selected user interface template and thereby creating a customized user interface for the video program and chat communication; and

shutting down the chat room upon completion of the video program.

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